Accidents due to drunken driving

†418.DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of accidents on National as well as State Highways has increased and whether most of the accidents are caused by the trucks;

(b) whether such drivers who are usually drunk and who drive trucks throughtout the night are not guilty for these accidents;

(c) whether drivers commit such negligence due to lack of stringent law in this regard;

(d) whether Government propose to bring a Bill for enacting a more stringent law to check such accidents; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) As reported by the States/UTs, the details regarding number of accidents on National Highways (NH) and State Highways (SH), and total accidents involving Trucks on all roads during 2001 and 2002 is as under:-

Year	Number of Accidents on NH/SH	Number of Accidents involving Trucks
2001	2,07,167	67,515
2002	2,27,404	69,571

(b) Drunken driving and driver fatigue are two of the many causes of road accidents.

(c) to (e) Section 185 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 provides for punishment for driving while under the influence of liquor Enforcement of all provisions of Motor Vehicles Act is the responsibility of concerned State/ UT. Updating of Motor Vehicles Act and Central Motor Vehicles Rules for improvement of Road Safety is a continuous ongoing process, which is taken up, as and when required.

† Origlnal notice of the question was received in Hindi.